

Exploring Atlanta for dummies—or Techies

By Gaines Halstead
Focus Editor

The summer semesters can be a slow and uneventful time for many Tech students; only so many games at the bowling center or levels of *Portal 2* can preoccupy an idle student, but when campus life begins to grind to a halt and things begin to look dreary, there is still hope yet.

For the latest and greatest time-consuming events, look no further than Tech's backyard, Atlanta. Situated in the heart of Georgia, Atlanta is home to a wide array of attractions. There is the CNN Center, the Georgia Aquarium and the World of Coke, and those are just the tourist traps found in Centennial Park.

The best of what Atlanta has to offer lies scattered across the various neighborhoods that make up the sprawling city. Luckily, the best movie theaters, nightclubs and restaurants are all just a MARTA ride away.

For any good Atlantan, the day must be started out right with the city's biggest burger in town, served only at Atlanta's local bar and grill, The Vortex.

With two fried eggs, six slices of cheese and eight strips of bacon, all served between two grilled cheese sandwiches, The Vortex's signature "Double Coronary Bypass" burger should keep you full for an entire day's worth of Atlanta escapades.

After consuming your daily caloric requirements in one sitting, venture out to the area surrounding the Vortex: Little Five Points, Atlanta's hipster capital. Just make sure to bring your thick-framed glasses and home-grown organic snacks. Here, you can find the trendiest shops around. Stores like Rag-O-Rama, where you can trade your clothes for someone else's, Criminal Records, where you can purchase your favorite band's latest record or Psycho Sisters, where you can pick up a new costume.

For a slightly cheaper Atlanta experience check out the centrally located Piedmont Park. Home to most of the city's biggest events like the Atlanta Jazz Festival, At-



Photo by Thien Huynh / Student Publications

With 189 acres of green space, Piedmont Park is Atlanta's largest municipal park and is conveniently located within the heart of the Midtown district. It is not an uncommon sight to see the park crowded with locals out on warm days enjoying the sun.

lanta Farmer's Market, German Bierfest or Atlanta Arts Festival.

However, if nothing all too important is happening, then you could always just mingle with the locals, play some sand-volleyball or just run a few laps around the park's track.

The lives of many Tech students center around an academic world seemingly full of mathematical equations, Java script or C++ coding. However, the High Museum of Art is chock-full with the latest and greatest pieces of modern art, ready and willing to

ease the minds of Tech students needing a break from the mundane chore of studying, enabling them to focus more on the artistic side lost to never ending integrals. Besides providing a wide variety of modern pieces, the High also plays host to a number of classical exhibitions, housing pieces from Da Vinci to Dali within the recent years.

With a healthy mix of both older and younger generations, a loyal, yet diverse, music scene defines Atlanta; regularly drawing in many big name acts every year. Whether you're anxiously awaiting for

Sade, Paul Simon, Adele, Florence and the Machine, Alice in Chains or A Day to Remember, chances are their tours most likely include a stop at either the Tabernacle, the Masquerade or the Fox Theatre—all major Atlanta entertainment venues.

Though walking Atlanta can be breathtaking at times, a skyline view of the city as a whole is often preferred. Dine out at Six Feet Under, a pub and fish house notorious for its view of the entire skyline to catch a

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Library workshops helping to advance knowledge



Photo courtesy of Georgia Tech Communications & Marketing

The Price Gilbert Memorial Library houses more than just books; it also is the site of Tech's educational workshops. Workshops are hosted here throughout the year at the Homer Rice Center.

By Jonathan Vallecillo
Contributing Writer

With e-books, Powerpoint presentations and other forms of computer software becoming the standard medium through which students create and develop ideas, a large educational void has been left for students to fill themselves.

For a number of students, the task of learning computer programs like Adobe's Photoshop and Thomson Reuters' Endnote has largely been left unto themselves, mostly through a trial and error based method of understanding.

While private tutors and self-help books may offer some support, these methods of aid can end up costing the student a great deal of money in the end.

Yet for members of the Tech community, the often troublesome task of learning new and slightly unruly software can easily be accomplished thanks in large part to the staff of the Tech library.

Throughout the year, the library offers professionally led, hands-on workshops, giving Tech students the chance to learn the ins and outs of a wide variety of

computer programs, along with methods helping to aid in research paper generalities.

The classes range from an orientation of library services and short workshops on everything from citation management to Photoshop or Dreamweaver.

Many of the classes have been created to serve as part of a series to help in the student's transformation from undergraduate studies to graduate studies.

And while they may seem geared more toward students than the public, many of the workshops are designed with the intention of addressing a much broader audience of everyday people who are looking for ways of advancing their own practical education.

With class durations lasting anywhere between an hour and an hour and a half, the seminars are led by various senior staff members of the library, some of whom have over a decade of multimedia experience.

Many of the staff members hold degrees from institutions across the south such as Duke University, Emory University,

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Florida State University, University of Alabama and Tech alike.

For example, Tuesday, July 12, at 3:00 p.m., Alison Valk, a senior staff member, will be leading a workshop on Adobe InDesign, a program typically utilized by graphic designers to format layouts of publications like posters and other forms of print media.

During the class, participants will skillfully create a business card or event brochure.

For some students, the benefits of having a proficiency in such document processing programs like that of InDesign can be used to help students gain the upper hand on not only schoolwork here on campus, but also on tasks within the business sector.

"As I've started to finish up here at Tech, I've begun to rely on programs like Endnote to help with citations for the sources in my research that I provide for companies. I didn't really know anything about the program at the

start of my education, but I was able to get a better understanding of how to use it mainly because of the classes offered by the library. I would recommend the library's classes first before you pick any price books," said Blake Jackson, a fifth-year ME major.

On the other hand, some students feel that the library's classes go unnoticed and do not receive enough attention.

"[I had] no idea they existed," said Colby Pines, a third-year STaC major, of the programs.

Pines went on to describe how the library has done little to promote its classes.

"I'd like to see the library promote their classes elsewhere so that more people could know about them because, overall, they seem pretty beneficial," Pines said in reference to the library's advertising process.

While the courses vary throughout the semester, a calendar of classes offered is available through the library's official website.



Photo by Cassie Xie / Student Publications

Two DJs play tunes late into the night at The Masquerade, one of Atlanta's many live concert venues. Due to a large youth population, Atlanta plays host to a large number of performing artists nightly.

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great in-city view of Downtown.

However, if you don't have the appetite for roof-top restaurants, then make the hike to Stone Mountain. After a short hike—or even shorter tram ride—up the

world's largest exposed piece of granite to see what Stone Mountain Park's website refers to as an "unprecedented view of the Atlanta Skyline," spanning all the way from Downtown to Buckhead.

Once darkness falls, you can catch a ride on the railroad around

the base of the rock or enjoy a state of the art laser show displayed on the face of the mountain every night this summer.

Atlanta is a city ripe with opportunity, every bit of which is at the disposal of every Tech student on campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

**JULY
11**

Campus Farmers' Market
[Student Center Commons
Food Court 11 a.m. - 2
p.m.]

monday

**JULY
12**

Technique Staff Meeting
[Flag Building 137 7 p.m.
- 8 p.m.]

tuesday

**JULY
13**

**Flicks on 5th - Battle: Los
Angeles** [Tech Square 9
p.m.]

wednesday

**JULY
14**

**Harry Potter and the
Deathly Hallows Gold
Carpet Advanced
Screening** [Atlantic
Station 9 p.m.]

thursday

**JULY
15**

**Optional Practical
Training Session** [Savant
Building 308 1 p.m. - 2
p.m.]

friday



Crato

present

Open Mic Coffeehouse
an evening of music, art, and poetry

July 21st
8 p.m. @ Library
East Commons